

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOVIET TRADE UNION DELEGATION

REF: (A) MOSCOW 5145 (B) MOSCOW 3777

1. EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM MFA THAT VISAS WILL NOT BE
ISSUED TO THIS DELEGATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PREVIOUS
PRACTICE IN CASES OF THIS SORT.

2. FYI DEPT'S PRESS GUIDANCE ON CONCURRENT BUT UNRELATED
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SOUTH AFRICAN AND SOVIET CASES FOLLOWS. GUIDANCE ON SOVIET
CAWE WAS USE1 DURING WEEKEND.

3. VISA CASE OF JAMES STUWART. MR. JAMES STUWART, A
NATIONAL OF SOUTH AFRICA, APPLIED FOR A VISA AS A MEMBER
OF A DELEGATION OF THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL. THAT
DELEGATION PLANS TO VISIT VARIOUS CITIES IN THE U.S. AND

PARTICIPATE IN SEMINARS AND LECTURES WHILE HERE. MR. STUWART IS INELIGIBLE FOR A VISA UNDER SECTION 212(A) (28) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT OF 1952, AS AMENDED, BECAUSE OF HIS AFFILIATION WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS, WHICH IS CONSIDERED TO BE A COMMUNIST-AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION. THIS ORGANIZATION IS NOT PRESENTLY ACTIVE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND MR. STUWART IS IN EXILE AND APPLIED FOR HIS VISA IN SCANDINAVIA. WE RECOMMENDED A WAIVER OF THIS INELIGIBILITY AND A VISA WILL BE ISSUED TO HIM, BASED ON OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE STATED PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT.

A. WASN'T THERE A DELAY IN ISSUING HIS VISA?

A. YES.

Q. WHY THE DELAY? DIDN'T OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION GET THEIR VISAS PROMPTLY?

A. IT WAS NOT CLEAR AT FIRST WHAT MR. STUWART PLANNED TO DO IN THE U.S. IT WAS NECESSARY FOR US TO ASK THE CONSULAR OFFICER TO ASCERTAIN MORE PRECISE INFORMATION FROM HIM ABOUT HIS PLANS. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION DID GET THEIR VISAS BEFORE MR. STUWART GOT HIS, BUT AS YOU KNOW, ALL VISA CASES ARE TREATED INDIVIDUALLY ON THEIR OWN MERITS. WE HAD NO REASON TO DELAY THE OTHER ISSUANCES WHILE WE WERE SEEKING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM MR. STUWART.

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Q. YOU NEEDED TO KNOW MR. STUWART'S PLANS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT YOU WERE GOING TO SEEK THE WAIVER?

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. I UNDERSTAND YOU RECENTLY DECLINED TO SEEK WAIVERS FOR THREE SOVIETS WHO ARE, LIKE MR. STUWART, LABOR LEADERS AND LIKEWISE INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS UNDER THE LAW. WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO SEEK A WAIVER FOR MR. STUWART WHEN YOU TURNED DOWN THE SOVIETS?

A. THE REASON FOR NOT SEEKING THE WAIVER IS AS FOLLOWS: LABOR EXCHANGES WITH COMMUNIST UNIONS WOULD EQUATE OUR FREE AND VOLUNTARY TRADE UNIONS WITH COMMUNIST LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. THE LATTER ARE SUBJECT TO COMMUNIST PARTY DISCIPLINE AND SEEK TO PROJECT THAT DISCIPLINE INTO THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR.

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Q. DOES THAT MEAN MR. STUWART IS NOT COMING HERE TO ENGAGE IN LABOR CONTACTS?

A. THAT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING. THE PURPOSE OF MR. STUWART'S TRIP WAS DIFFERENT; HE WAS NOT COMING HERE AS A LABOR REPRESENTATIVE, NOR TO ENGAGE IN LABOR CONTACTS, BUT TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS AND SEMINARS WITH THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL DELEGATION.

4. VISA CASES OF THREE SOVIETS INVITED TO ILWU BIENNIAL CONVENTION. VISA APPLICATIONS FOR MESSRS. BUTAREV, OLESHKEVICH AND SYSOYEV, SOVIET LABOR REPRESENTATIVES, WERE SUBMITTED TO OUR EMBASSY MOSCOW FOR THEM TO ATTEND THE 22ND BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S AND WAREHOUSEMEN'S UNION (ILWU). THEY WERE INVITED BY MR. HARRY BRIDGES, PRESIDENT OF THE ILWU. THE THREE GENTLEMEN ARE INELIGIBLE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VISAS UNDER SECTION 212(A) (28) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT, AS AMENDED, BECAUSE OF THEIR AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE USSR. THE DEPARTMENT DECLINED TO SEEK WAIVERS OF THIS INELIGIBILITY.

Q. DOES THIS MEAN THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE ILWU CONVENTION?

A. YES.

Q. IN OTHER CASES OF SUCH INELIGIBILITY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS SOUGHT WAIVERS. WHY DIDN'T YOU IN THIS CASE?

A. THE REASON FOR NOT SEEKING THE WAIVER IS AS FOLLOWS: LABOR EXCHANGES WITH COMMUNIST UNIONS WOULD EQUATE OUR FREE AND VOLUNTARY TRADE UNIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. THE LATTER ARE SUBJECT TO COMMUNIST PARTY DISCIPLINE AND SEEK TO PROJECT THAT DISCIPLINE INTO THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR.

Q. ISN'T SOME CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO CHANGING THAT POLICY? ISN'T THE DEPARTMENT REVIEWING THE WHOLE QUESTION OF (28)?

A. YES, THE ADMINISTRATION IS CONSIDERING THE QUESTION, BUT NO FINAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE.

Q. IN ANOTHER VISA CASE, THAT OF JAMES STUWART, I UNDERSTAND THIS ISSUE TO BE THE SAME -- STUWART IS ALSO A

LABOR REPRESENTATIVE, AND ALSO INELIGIBLE UNDER (28).
HOW COME YOU DECIDED TO SEEK A WAIVER FOR STUWART AND NOT
FOR THE SOVIETS?

A. THE PURPOSE OF MR. STUWART'S TRIP WAS DIFFERENT; HE
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WAS NOT COMING HERE AS A LABOR REPRESENTATIVE, NOR TO
ENGAGE IN LABOR CONTACTS, BUT TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS
AND SEMINARS WITH THE WORLD PEACE DELEGATION.

Q. DO YOU MEAN THAT YOU MIGHT SEEK WAIVERS FOR ONE OR
MORE OF THE THREE SOVIETS IF THEY WERE COMING AS PART
OF A TRADE PROMOTION GROUP OR IN SOME OTHER NON-LABOR
CAPACITY.

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. THEN THEY ARE NOT BARRED PERMANENTLY?

A. CORRECT -- WE WOULD CONSIDER AFRESH WHETHER TO SEEK A
WAIVER EACH TIME THEY APPLY IN THE FUTURE.

5. EMBASSY MAY DRAW UPON ELEMENTS OF THIS GUIDANCE
RELATING TO SOVIET CASE AS REQUIRED.
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